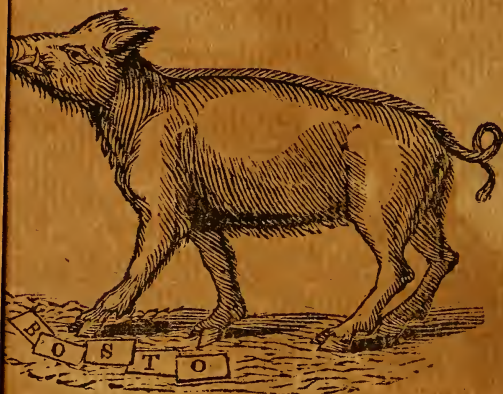


The  
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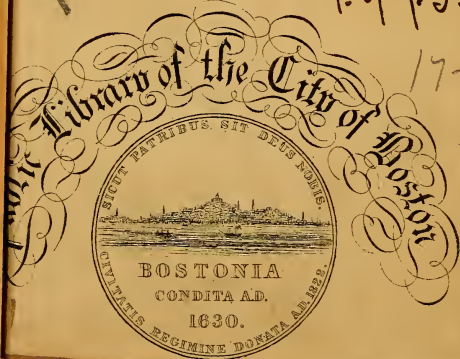
# PIG of KNOWLEDGE !!



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THE  
EXPOSITOR;

OR

MANY MYSTERIES UNRAVELLED.

DELINEATED

In a Series of Letters, between a Friend and  
his Correspondent.

COMPRISING

THE LEARNED PIG,—INVISIBLE LADY AND  
ACOUSTIC TEMPLE,—PHILOSOPHICAL  
SWAN,—PENETRATING SPY GLASSES,  
OPTICAL AND MAGNETIC,

AND

Various other Curiosities on similar Principles :

ALSO,

A few of the most wonderful Feats as per-  
formed by the Art of Legerdemain :

WITH

Some Reflections on Ventriloquism.

By WILLIAM FREDERICK PINGHECK.

Boston :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

1803.

T. 97.

354

*District of Massachusetts, to wit.*

**B**E IT REMEMBERED, that on the sixteenth day of January, in the twenty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, WILLIAM FREDERICK PINCHBECK, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the words following, *to wit* :—"The Expofitor, or Many Myfteries Unravelled. Delineated in a series of Letters, between a Friend and his Correfpondent. Comprising the Learned Pig,—Invisible Lady and Acouftic Temple,—Philofophical Swan,—Penetrating Spy Glaffes, optical and magnetic, and various other Curiofities on fimilar Principles: Alfo, a few of the moft wonderful Feats as performed by the Art of Legerdemain: With fome Reflections on Ventriloquifm. By FREDERICK WILLIAM PINCHBECK."

IN Conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by fecuring the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of fuch Copies, during the Times therein mentioned;" and alfo to an Act, entitled, "An Act fupplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by fecuring the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of fuch Copies, during the 'Times therein mentioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Defigning, Engraving, and Etching, Historical and other Prints."

N. GOODALE, *Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

A true Copy of Record. Atteft:

N. GOODALE, *Clerk.*

Brown Collection  
To  
Apr 25 1918  
F

## To the Public.

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*THE intention of this work was not only to amuse and instruct, but also to convince superstition of her many ridiculous errors,—to shew the disadvantages arising to society from a vague as well as irrational belief of man's intimacy with familiar spirits,—to oppose the idea of supernatural agency in any production of man,—and lastly, how dangerous such a belief is to society, how destructive to the improvement of the human capacity, and how totally ruinous to the common interests of mankind. To effect this design, as well as thoroughly and pleasingly to expound those once-thought mysteries the book contains, it has ever appeared to me no form was so adequate to the purpose as a series of letters.*

*As a writer, I pretend to no particular merits, nor can I clothe my sentiments in the luxuriant robes of a distinguished fancy, but only in unvarnished narrative unfold dexterities (merely the effects of human ingenuity)*



genuity) which have so long astonished the world.

The feats of which these letters give an account, are facts, and the definition of them implicitly correct; and on this the Author has founded the value of his book. Surely what is given by the inventor of some, and who has had ocular demonstration of the other feats, comprising the contents of these sheets, must admit of some certainty; and I positively affirm, that whatever I profess to define is done with honesty, and as accurately as practice and experience has determined to be. On this principle, the estimation and success of the work is submitted to the candor of a liberal and enlightened public,

By their humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

☞ As the public curiosity may be excited at the suppression of the dates and places whence my friend wrote his letters, as also the concealment of his name,—I would only say that these omissions were considered as unessential to the work.

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# I N D E X.

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1. METHOD of teaching the Pig—from Letter I. to IX. See also Letter V. Appendix.
2. Principles of the Acoustic Temple—from Letter IX. to XIV. See also Letter II. Appendix.
3. A Demonstration of the philosophical Swan—Letter XV.
4. A Demonstration of the Manner how a Gun is to be discharged at a Person previously loaded with Powder and Ball, the Person catching the Ball on the Point of a Dagger—Letter XV. See also Letter II. Appendix.
5. A Demonstration how a Card fastened to a Table with a Fork changes its situation—Letter XVII.
6. A Demonstration how Knives and Forks are swallowed—ditto.
7. A Demonstration of the Manner of breaking a Watch and restoring it to its former State—ditto.
8. A Demonstration how Eggs are transformed into Pan-Cakes—Letter XVIII.
9. How Dollars apparently sink through a Table—ditto.
10. Reflections on Ventriloquism—ditto.
11. Abilities necessary to a Performer of the Art of Legerdemain—Letter XX.
12. Further Opinions on Ventriloquism—Letter XXII.
13. How to take a Number of Eggs from a Bag apparently empty—Letter XXIV.
14. How to make the Ace of Hearts become the Ace of Clubs, and *vice versa*—ditto.

15. How

15. How to burn a Card to Ashes, and restore it to its former State—ditto.
16. How to light a Candle with the Point of a Sword—ditto.
17. How to transfer Money from one Handkerchief to another—ditto.
18. How to fire a Lady's Ring from a Gun in such a Manner, that the same shall be found confined under Lock and Key, one of the Company taking the Key—Letter XXV.
19. How to make a Handkerchief belonging to one of the Company follow the Exhibitor out of the Room—Letter XXVIII.
20. How to convey a Card into an Egg—ditto.
21. Magnetic optical Spy-Glass—Letter XXIX.  
 Penetrating optical do. do. XXIX.  
 Physiognotrace, do. XXIX.
22. Observations on the Situation of an Author—Letter IV. Appendix.
23. Reflections on the dangerous Tendency of Superstition—Letter V. Appendix.



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THE  
EXPOSITOR.

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LETTER I.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

IN my last I informed you of my indisposition ; but, thank Providence, I am now perfectly recovered : The journey and change of air has no doubt facilitated that recovery.

Wherever I stop on my tour, I am sure to hear of the fame of your celebrated Pig, and the many different opinions prevailing relative to the mode of his tuition, makes him a subject of general speculation. Some contend it is witchcraft ; and others, like the ancient Pythagoreans, believing in the transmigration of souls, conclude that the spirit of the grunting philosopher might once have animated a man.

An

An evening or two since, stopping at an inn, your Pig being the topic of conversation, I could not but listen to a grave old gentleman, who, putting on a very affected, sage-like look, declared his performances were the effects of the Black Art; that the Pig ought to be burnt, and the Man banished, as he had no doubt but you familiarly corresponded with the devil. O monstrous! will time and experience never remove such credulity from the earth? Must ingenuity, the parent of manufactories, the progressive pillar to wisdom and the arts, whose summit supports a mirror where superstition may see her own gorgon image, be thus broken and overturned by the rude hands of ignorance and pride? We rejoice that we live in an enlightened part of the world, where liberty extends her choicest blessings, and where the Presiding Magistrate is a philosopher, and under his patronage men of talents dare to be such; and these absurd opinions are but the dogmas of devotees and folly.

This

This grave old gentleman, had you and he been residents in Spain, would have summoned you before the Inquisition. Your efforts in demonstrating to the world, that the most stupid and stubborn of all animals, by patience and perseverance, might be made the most learned and docile, would no doubt have cost you your life.

As I very well know your liberality in defining all such matters to me as may tend either to my instruction or amusement, a sketch of the method by which this animal could be taught to perform such wonders will very much edify and oblige me.

Your sincere friend,

A. B.

## L E T T E R II.

[In answer.]

*W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

IT gives me inexpressible pleasure to hear that you have so speedily returned to the enjoyment of your usual state of health. You request information relative to the teaching of animals. As I have ever considered it an incumbent duty to withhold nothing from my friend, that may tend to his information, the resolving of your question becomes an additional pleasure. Those who style themselves friends, should regard nothing as an exclusive privilege, that might tend either to the instruction or happiness of each other. But alas! how universally is the sacred appellation of FRIEND prostituted! Amongst mankind they currently palm the term upon each other. I have known those who style themselves friends, and have been well experienced in the art of shaking hands, whose souls never knew the social tie, or felt the soft effusions  
of

of a benevolent heart; on the contrary, I should as soon expect to see an automaton shed tears from the violent emotion of an adamantine heart, at the fatal destruction of his fellow automaton, as to see such men, willingly, and from no motive whatever but absolute humanity, part with a single five dollar bill, to relieve the distresses of a man, whom just before they styled friend, and from whom perhaps they had received unbounded favours. However, leaving this digression, I hasten to comply with your request. And, as it respects the Pig of Knowledge, you shall be fully acquainted with the mystery, which I shall exhibit in Lessons.

#### LESSON I.

Take a Pig, seven or eight weeks old, let him have free access to the inferior part of your house, until he shall become in some measure domesticated. When familiar, you may enter upon his instruction. Take him to an apartment for the purpose of teaching, sequestered from any interruption, and three



times a day instruct him as follows : Put a card into his mouth, and hold it shut, giving him to understand he is not to drop it until you please to take it from him. At first, he will throw it from his mouth every moment, which you must immediately pick up and replace, reprimanding him in a loud tone of voice. In a short time, he will understand when you are displeased, and consequently will hold the same patiently. You must give him a small piece of white bread, or a piece of an apple, &c. whatever he is most fond of. Be very observing not to suffer any person to feed him but yourself. Swill is a food the most natural and healthy you can give him. You need not starve the Pig, as has been represented by a number of persons ; for that would make him so eager to obtain the morsel you give him by way of encouragement, that in his natural cravings for food, he would not be willing to hold the card a moment ; neither must you violently beat him, as that would confound his instinct, and make him  
afraid

afraid to perform that, which otherwise he would do with ease, and without fear. Having learnt him to stand still, and hold the card, he is master of the first Lesson.

A gentleman has just called on me in great haste for a pair of looking-glasses, which I have promised to deliver in a time which will demand every attention. In my next I will relate the second Lesson necessary for his instruction. And while I clap my hand to my heart, I feel no inconvenience in styling myself

Your sincere friend,

And very humble servant,

W. F. P.

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### L E T T E R    I I I .

*A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

WHILE I express my sincere thanks at your manifesting the pleasure you receive on my restoration to health, I congratulate you  
in

in the enjoyment of that inestimable blessing, which I hope no event in the womb of fate will be suffered to impair.

Soon as I read your friendly letter, I felt very zealous to become a school-master ; and, anxious to convince my acquaintances of the faculty I possessed, I have undertaken to teach a Pig. Immediately upon the receipt of your's, I purchased a nice little Shoat : I have taught him to hold a card, and believe he will prove a very apt scholar, though a very noisy one : He squeals and makes such a terrible outcry, that strangers passing by suppose I am severely chastising him ; when all I did, was holding him, and insisting on his taking the card.

I am anxious for information how to proceed ; and although the task be arduous, I flatter myself I shall be able to prove to the world that all the witchcraft necessary is a regular method of which you was the projector, supported by patience and perseverance.

I need

I need not importune other necessary directions by return of post ; for as the pupil must fail without the instruction of the preceptor, so must I without your assistance ; who style myself, without blushing,

Your sincere friend,

A. B.

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## L E T T E R IV.

[In answer.]

*W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

UPON the perusal of your letter, forgive me, for I was obliged to smile at your late novel undertaking, and the earnest desire you seem to express for its success : I say, *smile* ; but, my friend, not that smile of envy and contempt, which, while it expands the muscles of the face, contracts the heart with self-conceit and malice ; such grimaces I abhor ; they are the smiles of ignorance, and want almost invariably the capacity they ridicule.

But rather than fill up my letter in answer to what your observation has remarked and your good sense despised, I proceed to the second Lesson, relative to the instruction of your four-footed scholar.

### LESSON 2.

If you have taught him to hold the card, as described in my last, you may lay it on the floor, with one corner bent upwards; then forcing his head down to the card, put it in his mouth, and hold it up with the card, not suffering him to drop it; and so repeatedly. Do not forget to encourage him for his good performances; and when he will pick the card off the floor without your assistance he is master of the second Lesson. I should have told you at this time to accustom him to your snuffing the nose, for purposes that will appear as he progresses in his learning.

### LESSON 3.

You must now lay down three cards. He will naturally try to take the one the most convenient for him; and your business is to  
check



check him, not snuffing your nose ; and, taking it from him in an angry tone of voice, replace the same, and force him to take the one next to him, or the third, snuffing your nose. By persevering in this manner a few days, he will soon understand he must not take hold, until you give him the signal, which is breathing from your nose. When you have learnt him this, you may continue increasing the cards ; and that animal, who in his rude state appears the most stupid, with the least share of tractability amongst all other quadrupeds, will be found sapient, docile, and gentle.

I am, with usual respect, and unfeigned sincerity of heart,

Your well-wisher,

And very humble servant,

W. F. P.

## L E T T E R V.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

YOUR's came safe to hand. Early the next morning I proceeded to give the second Lesson, which I found him very unwilling to perform ; and I confess, that had not the information come from a man, in whose veracity I could confide, and whose patience and practice had been the means of perfecting six, I should have given up the business, concluding this was not the method, and that there was another more practicable. From such suspicions the brightest geniuses fail in many of their most valuable undertakings ; and thus from want of patience and perseverance fail of the termination of a design, whose accomplishment might insure themselves profit and respect, and prove a benefit to the community at large. However, I persevered ; and it is with satisfaction I inform  
you,

you, he will now pick and fetch either of the three cards I choofe.

In concluding this Letter, I would not forget to mention to you I intend to increafe the cards to fix. In the mean while, further information relative to his instruction will greatly oblige, and ever meet acknowledgment, from

Your sincere friend,

And very humble fervant,

A. B.



## L E T T E R VI.

[In answer.]

*W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I THINK your scholar makes astonishing progress. I almost feel afraid of your working him too hard, and fatiguing yourself. At this period you ought not to exceed three Lessons in a day : You must remember the old adage, "All work and no play, makes

Jack

Jack a dull boy.” Should you, in your anxiety to make him become a proficient, give him too many Lessons a day, and by these means proceed faster than instinct has faculty to retain he will become tired and confused ; and, in endeavouring to learn the last Lesson, he may entirely or in part forget the first : Such a mistake would be no credit to the instructor. As he has made so good progress, I would not urge the business too rapidly. Do not enlarge the number of cards oftener than once a day ; and let him be well acquainted with the object of your intention, before you take the step I am about to advise in the next Lesson.

#### LESSON 4.

Spread twelve cards on the floor, in a circular direction, four inches apart ; within this circle keep the Pig, and stand yourself. We will suppose you before an Assembly for the purpose of an exhibition ; therefore you must give up sitting, as that posture would be very singular as well as impolite. The Pig ob-  
serving

serving you in this unusual position, will be much embarrassed ; and not knowing the meaning, will seek to amuse himself by running in every direction about the room. You are not to beat him into the knowledge of your design, but coax him to it, if possible. If this will not keep him by your side, tie a string about his neck, and when he would exceed the bounds of the circle, check him, using a soft or loud tone of voice as occasion may require ; for every brute has instinct to decide betwixt approbation and displeasure. At the length of the string, he will learn to walk the circle with his nose to the cards ; and when he hears the signal before mentioned, will snatch at the card he shall then be opposite : Immediately step back, and he will follow with the same. Give him a small piece of bread as his reward, and by your approbation let him know he has done right ; for one misunderstanding at this critical juncture will be a great source of unnecessary trouble. He will soon readily run for the  
cards,



cards, making many mistakes, which you must have the patience to endure and correct with good nature. If he takes the wrong card, replace it immediately, and shew him the one you wanted. Much is to be done by raising and falling the tone of the voice. In four or five days you may venture to take the restraint from his neck; and whenever he exceeds his limits, put it on. By practising in this manner, he will soon perfectly understand his business.

In my next I will give you a few more hints, which will no doubt complete your wishes, and your pupil will soon merit the title of the *Pig of Knowledge*.

I am, in reality,

what men call a Friend,

W. F. P.

p. s. You must not expect him to understand this Lesson in less than a fortnight.

## L E T T E R VII.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

THE fortnight has expired, and the Pig is completed. I have already exhibited him to a number of persons, men of ingenuity and talents, in whose judgment I can confide: They are astonished beyond description. None can account for the knowledge he apparently possesses, or discover the secret communication betwixt myself and the Pig. In fact, amongst the learned, I am thought a man of talents, whilst others less informed accuse me of the Black Art, and condemn me as a wizard. Shall I remonstrate with bigots? Shall I patiently sit down, and earnestly detail to them the cause? They would not believe me. No: I leave them to the enjoyment of their different reflections, and for my security and reward look to men of knowledge, whose approbation is more congenial to my feelings than the unbounded eclat of a barren multitude.

With every sentiment of respect,

I am, &amp;c.

A. B.

## L E T T E R VIII.

[In answer to the last.]

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

YOU inform me that your Pig is complete, and that his performances have astonished numbers. I confess I am astonished myself at his so early completion. And has no discovery taken place? Hath none detected the secret communication by which he is actuated? What will you conclude, when I inform you that even that communication is unnecessary? You may relinquish it by degrees; for the animal is so sagacious, that he will appear to read your thoughts. The position you stand in, not meaning any stipulated place, or certain gesture, but what will naturally arise from your anxiety, will determine the card to your pupil. I will only add, that I have been as much amazed at the performance of this animal, as the spectators before whom I exhibited him. Of all other quadrupeds, the Pig in my opinion is the most sapient, though writers on Natural History say to the contrary, giving preference to the Elephant. Pope has bequeathed this animal

half

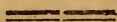
half the reason of man : How far he merits this eulogium, I am not able to determine ; but of this I am convinced, that the race of Swine claim a greater share of instinct than belongs to the Dog or the Horse.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Yours sincerely,

W. F. P.

N. B. For further observations on this subject, see the Appendix, Letter V.



## L E T T E R IX.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

AFTER perusing your letter several times, and attentively considering its contents, I have with care and observation taken the steps you advised.

I find the Pig really the animal you described him. I have entirely omitted the signal by which he was taught ; and his penetrating nature, notwithstanding this omission, readily conceives my meaning. How am I to account for this miracle ? What you have already

ready expressed upon the subject I shall not attempt to elucidate, but perfectly acquiesce with you in the estimation of his abilities.

But the Pig no longer excites admiration. There is a certain Philosophical Machine lately arrived from France, which engrosses universal attention. The admittance to visit this curiosity is fifty cents ; and people throng in crowds to view it. The Proprietors name it *The Invisible Lady* and *Acoustic Temple* ; and as I think it a subject worthy your attention, shall attempt to give a description of this wonder.

In the middle of a room is seen a railing in the form of an octagon, painted red : In the centre of this is suspended a square chest, whose circumference contains about twenty-four inches : Apparently isolated on this, is a dome supported by four small columns : A small glass globe, silvered, ornaments and caps the extreme convexity of this dome. From each corner of this chest proceeds a trumpet : To the concavity of either of these you may put a question, and a rational answer, in an effeminate tone of voice, will be immediately returned.

Astonished,



Astonished, I placed my ear to the floor, to the walls, and even clambered to the ceiling to discover the agent to whom I attributed the answers : I listened, but distinguished no sound. Is it possible that the most ingenious of mankind could contrive a machine capable of giving rational answers ? No, I am convinced to the contrary : Neither has the proprietor any connexion with a familiar spirit. But on what principle these opaques are enabled to discourse, is the mystery I wish you to unriddle.

The Lady not only discourses, but has the faculty of seeing, singing and breathing ; all which I proved to be true. Presenting a piece of silver to the ball, the Lady directly determined its value, by informing the company the gentleman might pocket his four-pence-half-penny.

Pray, Sir, explain where is the agent so disposed, that he has the opportunity to see as well as to hear, yet not to be seen by any of the company, and heard from the chest only.

The more I ponder on this subject, the less I am enabled to explain the wonder. You, Sir, may be able to trace its hidden dependencies,

cies, and penetrate its mysterious principle. I am sensible of your knowledge, both as a mechanic and a philosopher. And your Writing Automaton, Magician, Speaking Figure, Penetrating Spy-Glass, Tumbling and Vaulting Figures, the result of your assiduous labours, have been the greatest ornaments to the Washington Museum.

And now, dear Sir, your exposition of this mysterious Temple will very much profit, edify and greatly amuse one in whom you may place entire confidence ; one that will never recede a step from a man, whose sincere friendship and unwearied efforts to oblige has been the making of,

Yours, &c.

A. B.

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## L E T T E R X.

[In answer to Letter IX.]

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

THE Temple of which you speak is no longer a mystery to me ; I have seen the same, and heard its responses, previous to the receipt of your ninth. My chief study is how  
to

to erect one on the best principles for the Proprietor of the Washington Museum. The proposals to obtain so great an acquisition, you may readily conceive ought to be very advantageous to myself. The propositions of that gentleman are truly flattering; and I have undertaken to complete one in the course of a fortnight. You need not write me in the interim, unless something particular should happen. As I have made no agreement with him relative to a concealment of the secret, my next will contain a general view of the plan; and that it may prove beneficial to you, is the sincere wish of

Your friend, &c.

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R    X I.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

[Explaining the Principles of the Acoustic Temple.]

SIR,

THE Invisible Lady and Acoustic Temple is now added to the Washington Museum, and, as I understand, answers the most sanguine expectations of the proprietor; as men  
of

of talents, who have visited the one lately arrived from France, give this decidedly the preference.

The effect of this Acoustic's performance is much greater, and more pleasing than the common Speaking Figures, of which there are two. This Acoustic so much esteemed, and whose performances have astonished all Europe, responds by the assistance of tubes through which the sounds are conveyed. To simplify this : The form of the railing, you no doubt recollect, has been mentioned as being octagonal, containing eight posts, connected by bars from post to post (See Plate, Fig. 1.) Four of these posts diametrically opposite each other are excavated, as also their four connecting bars : These excavated posts contain tin tubes, running to the middle of their respective connecting bars : The tubes in the bars communicate the sound, on that side of the bar next the Temple, by an incision made in the tube. Have special care that the ends of these tubes be closed, and the side of the bar at the incision in the tube cut wafer thin, about the bigness of the incision, and there perforated full of small holes made with a needle. At the bottom of  
the

the four excavated posts are four tin elbows, connected with the tubes in the posts ; to these add a length of pipes continued to a distance sufficient to prevent the Agent's natural voice being heard by the company ; making directions of the four tubes, between the floor and ceiling, by the help of elbows to where the agent is concealed : Here is a concavity of tin into which the four pipes enter, made in the form of a common tin tunnel, its outward circumference about two feet : From this concave the Agent receives the question put to the Temple, and returns the answer by speaking in the same. This prepared, suspend the Temple to the four solid posts, with the four trumpets towards the four mouths of the tubes in the perforated bars. Then a question put to either of these trumpets will appear as proceeding from the chest of the Temple, and will be distinctly understood by the person secreted at the extremity of these tubes. He putting his ear at the orifice of the concave to which the four tubes join, and by speaking in the same, the answer will appear as proceeding from the chest.

You



You may ask why we are not able to hear the words as they proceed from the tubes in the rails, as well as when they proceed from the trumpets? I answer,—Air compressed will convey sounds to an unlimited distance; and this is nothing more than a continued compression; for the sound proceeding from the incision in the tube is immediately collected in the concavity of the trumpet, and being thus compressed cannot be heard, until by virtue of this concavity it is reflected to the open air.

The singing and breathing are heard and felt through the same medium.

My next will explain the optical deception relative to this Lady.

Your friend, &c.  
W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XII.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

THE information your's contains respecting the Invisible is couched in terms so easy and

and distinct, that I am encouraged to undertake the construction of one myself.

To you, Sir, I candidly confess the many favours received, and acknowledge the great benefits resulting therefrom ; and my grateful heart will ever rejoice at the opportunity of proving to my friend, that a man has been found with a spark of gratitude.

Yours with sincerity,

A. B.

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### L E T T E R XIII.

*W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

YOU inform me you intend erecting one of those Invisibles. I advise you to be very industrious, and aim at finishing it before the curiosity for viewing the Acoustic declines. Nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward the principles on which it is constructed ; and nothing but the distance which destiny has thrown between us prevents my actual assistance in erecting the same. However, your intrepid energy will no doubt render that assistance unnecessary.

The

The faculty of the Lady's apparently seeing is all that now remains unexplained. This it is that evades the researches of philosophy ; for whilst the sight is considered as the faculty of the same object from whence proceeds a voice so loud and distinct, it has and will elude all positive decision. For instance : Suppose the person, who asks and resolves the questions, was disposed in such a manner as that the sight might be made practicable to him, his nearness to the Assembly would cause his natural voice to be heard. To perfect this deception, therefore, two persons are necessary ; the one to see whatever is presented to the globe on the top of the dome of the Temple, the other to inform. For this purpose, two Girandoles with lattice-work are placed in the Exhibition Room opposite each other ; or Transparent Paintings will answer the same purpose : These Girandoles or Paintings are considered by the Company merely as ornaments. Behind one of these there is a small aperture, through the partition to an adjoining room, where the person appointed to see whatever is presented to the ball takes his station. His business is to communicate, in a whisper, to the person who is to inform the Company of what is presented to the ball,

or

or incomprehensible mirror, so termed, on the top of the dome. To effect this, there is a pipe for the purpose of conveying this information leading from the apartment of the spectator to the person closeted for speaking, singing, &c. who, when asked what is held to the ball, claps an ear to the communicating pipe. The one behind the Girandole whispers, *a Gold Ring*, or whatever happens to be held. Then the Invisible answers, *a Gold Ring*, to the astonishment of the Company.

Thus is the foregoing mystery unriddled ; and should it prove any benefit to you, Sir, I shall always bless nature for that gift, whose value is enhanced by putting it in my power to serve my friend.

Believe me to be

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

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## LETTER XIV.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your friendly letter in due season : It happened at the moment when  
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that part of the Temple which conveys the sounds was just completed. I was ruminating whether some alteration requisite to accomplish the sight would not be necessary, and expected that would be the result of your last Letter. On perusal I found to the contrary ; and by adding the sight in the manner you described, it is finished, and for elegance as well as mystery equals any thing of the kind ever exhibited.

Accept my acknowledgments for this favour, amongst numberless others equally interesting ; and be assured that though I have been several times taken for the inventor of this machine, it is a greature pleasure to me to point out the real Projector, than take the merit to myself.

*More wonders ! Yea, more wonders !!!*

A Gentleman has lately arrived here by the name of *Ranie* : His wonderful feats are performed by the Art of Legerdemain. The ease and dexterity with which he manages his business, and the pleasing manner he has of accomplishing his designs, is not less to be admired than the skilful performances of the inimitable *Brisloe*.

1st. He



1st. He will produce an artificial Swan, about the size of an humming-bird, which he places in a basin of water, on the brim of which basin is depicted a pack of cards : Any Lady or Gentleman may draw a card from a pack, and the little inanimate will make known the card drawn, by swimming to a similar card on the rim of the basin.

2d. He suffers a gun to be discharged at him, previously loaded with powder and ball, and catches the ball on the point of a dagger ; declaring that he does it by the power of magnetism.

3d. Any Gentleman may pin a card to a table with a fork, and Mr. R. will cause the card so fastened to change place with various cards of the pack, without releasing the same from its confinement.

4th. He swallows knives and forks.

5th. He breaks a Gentleman's watch (previously put into a bag) or suffers it to be broken, and afterwards restores it to its former state.

6th. He breaks any number of eggs into a hat, and by stirring them with his *metempsychostical*

*psychostical stick*, transforms them to pan-cakes, without the aid of fire, leaving the hat unfulled.

7th. He places a number of dollars on a plate, one on the other, which he covers with a card, the plate he places on a table, and putting his hand under the table, they fall into it, apparently sinking through the plate and table, and becoming a ball, and in this manner returning to the plate, and so alternately. He has also the gift of Ventriloquism, which he performs with much judgment and great effect.

These, together with a number of deceptions of the like nature, render his exhibitions not only marvellous but amusing. If you should see Mr. R. perform, you would be as highly gratified as he who styles himself

Your friend, &c. A. B.



## L E T T E R XV.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

IT gives me great pleasure to hear that your Acoustic is found equal to your expectations.

tions. All that is now wanting is the patronage of the Public : This may or may not be the reward of your great expence and labour.

I have seen and conversed with Mr. R. The feats he performs fully equal your description ; and as you seem very much surprized, and appear to be unacquainted with the Art of Legerdemain, I will detail to you how such deceptions are performed.

1st. *The Philosophical Swan.*—The basin in which the Swan is exhibited must be made of tin, with a rim projecting two or three inches beyond the circumference : This rim, (the cards being painted thereon) must have two rabbits underneath, forming a frame, capable of receiving a brass hoop within it, made to turn perfectly easy in its respective rabbits : To this hoop dove-tail a magnet, with the attracting point inwards. To this magnet fix a brass pin, projecting over the face of the frame underneath, so that you may easily turn the magnet to that part of the basin occasion may require. The choice of the card being made, turn the hoop, by the help of the projecting pin, with your thumb or finger, which must shift the magnet to a similar one painted on the rim. To avail your-

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self

self of a seasonable opportunity, expostulate on the great curiosity you are about to exhibit ; and at this instant, while you are diverting the attention of the company, shift the magnet. The Swan being placed on the water, whose body may be cork, and whose bill must be steel, will immediately swim to the point of attraction, which the Exhibitor has thus contrived to be under the card contemplated.

2d. *How to catch a Ball discharged from a Gun on the point of a Dagger.*—Let there be a small semicircular iron tube, about three inches in length, firmly secured on the inside the barrel next to the touch-hole : This tube you must charge with a small quantity of powder previous to the performance : At this breech have a door to turn similar to the covering of a key-hole : This door must be sawed out of the breech, and shut with a spring : Through this aperture, opening the door, there must be free access for the ball to that part of the stock opposite the lock. The brass ornament, through which the screws pass to secure the lock, must be detached from the screws, and open and shut with a spring. Let the Audience examine and mark the ball ;  
any

any one may put the same into the barrel, the Performer holding the gun in such a position as to favour the descent of the ball to the breech. Then with your ram-rod make sure of its passing the tube, secretly opening the door in the breech to give it free passage into the stock. This done, all is secure. I need not tell you to ram in a piece of paper under pretence of securing the ball. Now taking the ball from the stock which will readily fall into your hand, by secretly opening the brass ornament, retire in order to fetch the dagger. Your dagger must also be prepared for the business : The blade must have two points exactly similar : The handle must be half the length of the blade : On the one point fix your ball, which point and ball being pressed into the handle, the other half is forced through the handle, being hollow, both ends of which (to carry on the deception) are exactly similar. Then you retire to the one end of the room, and the gentleman who discharges the gun to the other. It is well enough to hold the candle in one hand, under pretence of seeing the ball, as the bottom of the candlestick is a convenient place to strike the dagger against, in order to force that end from the handle which is already furnished



furnished with the ball ; turning your hand towards the gun the instant of the report. Then, with an air of self-approbation, shew the ball on the dagger. It is well enough, after shewing, to take it from the point and throw it on the table, telling the Company they may look for their mark ; then retire taking the gun and dagger to prevent further examination.

The explanation of the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions, will be the subjects of my next. Till when, with cordial esteem,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XVI.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

THE receipt of yours gave me great pleasure, and contained as usual much philosophical information ; the knowledge of which I am continually searching after, and which has become my chief study. The disinterested friendship which on every occasion you appear to have imbibed for me, is a circumstance peculiar

peculiar only to good men. It is a happiness to reflect that nature bestowed a genius, and blended in the same composition those generous feelings that ornament her work, and stamp the man.

I am, with due sentiments of esteem,  
Yours, &c. A. B.



## LETTER XVII.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I AM afraid you have undertaken to flatter me. Your letter intimates more in my praise than any instances of my life admit of recollecting. Flattery is of all delusions the most detrimental to the human understanding; it retards that improvement which is ever to be made by the most meritorious of mankind, by implanting in the breast sentiments of pride and self-sufficiency; poisons the mental faculties; and many valuable persons have fallen ridiculous victims to its fascinating power; therefore the person who uses flattery with a bad intention, not meaning as he speaks, is a dangerous companion; but

but he who ingenuously gives due credit to another is a well-wisher, and a candid man ; such am I convinced is my friend : I do not accuse you of such insinuations, but consider my conduct as approved, and the overplus of praise to be merely the overflowings of a warm and friendly heart.

According to my promise, I will now proceed to explain the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions.

3d. *The manner how a Card fastened to a table changes its situation.*—Let any of the Company choose a card from a number you present them. Be careful they are all of one sort, remembering that spotted cards are the most suitable : As for instance, supposing the cards presented be the five of hearts, request the person who draws from these to return the card drawn to you : Instantly substitute another, which you must have handily in your pocket, with false spots, resembling hearts, and which in reality is only the five of clubs. Then take a pack of cards, and, giving them to the person who drew the five of hearts, request him to look for the five of clubs which must not be in the pack. You then shew him a card which resembles the five of clubs on  
your

your fork, but which in reality is the five of hearts. Now request the gentleman to permit you to replace the substituted five of hearts, which in reality is the five of clubs, secretly shifting off the false spots as he receives it into the pack ; consequently he has instead of the five of hearts the five of clubs, and you on your fork in place of the five of hearts, as to appearance, have the five of clubs, the spots of which must be shifted as may seem to you most convenient to deceive the Company. Recollect that the face of the card pinned to the table must be downwards, as will naturally be the case after you have shewn it.

4th. *The manner how he swallows knives and forks.*—Produce a knife and fork for the examination of the Company, secured to the handle ; and after they have examined and returned the same to you, under some pretence you may retire, and return with another knife and fork appearing like the former, but constructed as follows : The handles must be made of a sufficient length to admit the blades, and tines, then pressing the blade or tine against your teeth with your right hand before your lips it will appear to go into your mouth when it is only returning to the handle.

This

This done, convey your handle to your sleeve, bosom, or pocket, as may be most convenient, and it will seem as though you actually swallowed the same, making grimaces and gestures suitable for swallowing and digesting such delicate food.

5th. *The manner how he breaks a Watch, and restores it to its former state.*—The bag must be made in the form of a pillow-case, with both ends entirely closed, one end of which being entered into the other, renders it a bag and double ; then from its being so formed, he may seemingly turn the inside outward, yet the real inside remain undiscovered. In this aperture there is a slit, leading to a pocket situated near the middle of the bag ; in this pocket a watch is already disposed, for the purpose of being broken. He then requests the Company to favour him with a watch, under pretence of breaking it. Thus accommodated, he secretly places it in the pocket above mentioned, and removes the one before deposited, letting it fall to the bottom of the bag within the real inside so instantaneously that it appears as though it were the borrowed watch. He then takes the bag, and placing the watch intended to be broken at  
one



one corner, suffers the Company to break this watch in any manner they please, whilst the borrowed one remains safe in the pocket in the centre of the bag. Succeeding thus far, he then turns the bag inside out, and shews the Company there are no pieces of the broken watch to be found ; and at this time clapping his hand into the pocket mentioned, turns the borrowed watch into the seeming bag, whilst the pieces of the broken watch remain unobserved between the inside and outside the bag.

The sixth and seventh Deceptions, with my opinion concerning Ventriloquism, will be subjects for my next ; till when,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XVIII.

[On the subject of the last Letter.]

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

IN my last I explained to you the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions, with a promise to explain the sixth and seventh, and give you

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my opinion on Ventriloquism in my next. I now proceed, agreeably to my promise.

6th. *How Eggs are transformed into Pan-cakes.*—Take the number of eggs you mean to transform, and divest them of their yolks, preserving the shell as entire as possible ; then make as many small pan-cakes. These prepared, proceed as follows : Admit you mean to transform six, present nine to the Company, six of these divested of their yolks, and three unblown. After borrowing two hats, request some person to hold one of these hats upon his head with the bowl upwards, into which you must break the empty eggs, making it appear as though they were real ones. The pan-cakes mentioned at the time of borrowing one of these hats are easily slipped in to the hat, as previously they are wrapped together in a small compass. With the other hat cover this, the two rims touching each other. Then shaking the hats, it will appear as though it were the yolks of the eggs that were shaking, when at the same time it is only the pan-cakes. After shaking, separate them with your *metempsychostical stick* ; the three eggs with their yolks remaining by you untouched, in order that if any of the Company should

should wish to examine the eggs, you may have found ones to present them.

7th. *How Dollars apparently sink through a Plate and Table, change into a Ball, and return.*—Take six dollars and solder them well together, then excavate them, leaving the bottom dollar; this turned upwards has the appearance of six solid dollars. Keep this concealed at present: Then produce six dollars; place these on a plate, one on the top of the other; then place the plate on the table, keeping the excavated dollars ready to take the place of the real ones, having a small ball in the excavation. Now address the Company on the importance of your feat, at the same time taking up the real dollars, and letting them drop one by one on the plate. When the Company are sufficiently satisfied as to the reality of the dollars which you drop on the plate, place the dollars on each other. Now, having your excavated dollars under your right sleeve, take the real ones, chinking them in your right hand, dexterously throw them into the left, at the same instant sliding your excavated dollars, with the ball in the same, from under your sleeve into your hand, placing it on the plate on the table, bottom  
upwards,

upwards, with a ball under the same. Then produce a ball similar to that under the seeming dollars on the table, shew it to the Company, observing to them, this ball which I now hold under the table (at the same time putting your hand underneath the table) I will cause to take the place of the dollars on the table, whilst the dollars at the same time shall sink into my hand through the table. In order to do this, have a card with the edges sown together in the form of a tube, and with this tube cover the seeming dollars; then, repeating the object of the trick, take up the tube, at the same time pinching the same, the excavated dollars naturally follow unseen, and the ball appears to view: Thus far has the ball taken the place of the dollars. Now to make the dollars take the place of the ball, replace the tube with those that are excavated over the ball, and, by taking up the same without pinching it, the dollars appear, and the ball is concealed. At the same time that the Company supposes the dollars are descending, you may chink the real ones underneath the table, as this will make the effect appear the greater. How to remove the excavated dollars, and place the real ones and the ball, is an important question in the same feat:

feat : This is no more than pinching the tube, taking it up, letting the excavated dollars privately fall into your hand, at the same time throwing the tube and real ones on the table for examination.

Thus having fulfilled my promise with respect to Mr. R.'s deceptions, I now proceed to give my opinion on Ventriloquism.

This performance, so much esteemed and which has excited universal admiration, is considered by the learned to be a singular gift of nature, peculiar to a very few, they supposing the ventricle of these men, to be of a different formation from that of mankind in general ; whilst bigotry views it as the effect of diabolical agency. To attribute the effect to this cause, or to the agency of a supernatural power, has ever been contrary to my opinion. I believe any person by practice may become a mimick in some degree ; and, as far as he is possessed of this faculty, so far he may avail himself of the art of Ventriloquism. To verify this, we will admit a person's ventricle shall be formed by nature so as to afford the power of speaking inwardly ; will this give him the faculty of compressing air, in such a manner as to reflect words or sounds imperceptibly



to certain distances, and in various directions to be heard from particular places, he apparently remaining silent ? Or is it possible that he, the pretended Ventriloquist, has any command upon the word or sound after escaping his lips or stomach, more than any other man to whom nature has not given the power of speaking inwardly ? I answer, No ! All the advantage to be derived from this gift is to avail himself of becoming a mimick. The artificial voice acquired by the practice of mimickry and imitating of sounds, as though they were at different distances, or intercepted by any particular objects, has this effect. For this purpose, let a person assiduously strive to imitate the voice of a child, shutting his lips, suffering the sound only to escape from the corner of his mouth, according to the direction he means to have it appear issuing from, which by practice will become familiar, and more and more distinct.

This performance is generally carried on in the following manner : The performer provides himself with a doll, which he calls Tommy, from whom the feigned voice appears to proceed. Placing Tommy on his knee, a conversation apparently takes place between him and Tommy, in which the Exhibitor contrives

contrives to make correction necessary : Then punishes him by placing him under his coat, where Tommy is heard speaking in a smothered tone of voice. This is done to attract the attention of the Audience to that particular tone of voice which he the Performer intends counterfeiting as the voice of a child. Now all the attention being directed to Tommy, so that at whatever corner of the room he places the puppet, the Company with anxious expectation wait to hear the feigned voice. At first he places him at a small distance. The Performer then questioning in his natural tone of voice, asks, *Where are you now, Tommy?* Mimicking a child, and directly articulating as when the pretended conversation was held, he replies, *Here, Papa.* It will now do to place him at a greater distance, questioning as before, and giving the same answer, making it appear as if at a great distance ; and so proceed questioning and answering, according to the distance. The imagination of the Company being thus rivetted, you may venture to place him without the room, shutting the door, mimicking exactly that kind of sound which would be the case if a child actually spoke without doors ; being careful to preserve that articulation which took place in the conversation

tion before the Company, whilst the puppet was under the coat, such will be the effect if he spoke supposing him smothered. The faculty of attracting the attention to the object contemplated as though speaking, with the art of mimicking a feigned voice, either smothered or at certain distances, is the opinion I have of Ventriloquism.

I am, with due sentiments of esteem,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

P. S. After closing this Letter, a circumstance occurred to my mind respecting a Farmer who was on his road to London with a load of hay. The story is thus told : Being overtaken by one of those persons, styled Ventriloquists, who by the supposed art of his Ventriloquism meant to attract the Farmer's attention, and show his faculty in imitating a supposed voice, after travelling familiarly together for some distance, the mimick, as if surprized, observes, " My friend, there is a person confined in your hay." The Farmer, disbelieving it, gave but little attention to his observation. After travelling a little further, and turning to the object, with much earnestness he exclaims, " For compassion's sake, relieve this person from his embarrassment."

The

The manner of his speaking, immediately attracted the attention of the Farmer to his load. The mimick observing his attention turned from him to the hay, fell to imitating the voice of a person, as if smothered in the hay ; which occasioned the Farmer to exert his utmost efforts in unloading his hay, to relieve the imagined unfortunate. In a similar manner sounds are produced from chairs, tables, and other substances.

Such is thy power, oh Mimickry.

Adieu. W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R   XIX.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

YOUR two last Letters came safe to hand. Your explanation of the Deceptions contained in them and a former Letter, induces me to attempt a trial of my skill, both to become a Conjurer and Ventriloquist : But fearing I shall fail in my attempts, I must once more trouble you with my solicitations, and request you to favour me with your opinion of the abilities necessary to constitute a performer.

I remain with sincere attachment,

Your obliged friend,       A. B.



## L E T T E R XX.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

THE Art of Legerdemain requires great dexterity, and abundance of confidence in the performer : There are but few who are equal to the task. Mr. R. before mentioned, is competent to the business, and the only one I have known, except the famous *Brisloe*. Any man who would exhibit these deceptions to satisfaction, must have these several qualifications : He must be nimble with his hands and fingers, possess an extraordinary share of volubility, aided by a prepossessing carriage, suitable to command respect : His left hand must be as capable as his right : He must have acquired the faculty of dividing his thoughts, so as to accomplish several objects at the same moment, and that with certainty and ease : The flashes of his wit must attract the eyes of the spectators from the feat he is performing, as occasion may require, although he must not have this appear his intention. These properties in conjunction, may make what is vulgarly called a Conjuror ; so that you may readily infer that it is not altogether the inventor



ventor of a deception, but the performer, who claims the principal merit. You say likewise, you have an idea of becoming a Ventriloquist. Learn to be a mimick, and you may easily effect your purpose. As you likewise appear so desirous of becoming what is commonly called a Conjuror, any thing within the compass of my abilities you may command.

Yours, &c. W. F. P.



## LETTER XXI.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING what you have said on the subject of Ventriloquism, I cannot yet convince myself of its being acquirable. The objections arising in my mind are these: Provided a man's ventricle is so constructed as to give him the power of speaking inwardly, which is perhaps not common amongst mankind, and from this singular circumstance he avails himself of becoming a greater mimick, than any other who professes himself to be such by a mere imitation of sounds, what is this but a gift of nature?

Yours, &c. A. B.

## L E T T E R XXII.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I PRESUME every mimick has not a propensity to become a Ventriloquist ; and for this reason every great mimick has not acquired the faculty of imitating sounds confined and at certain distances ; so that being uncommon it is inconsiderately accounted a gift of nature. What is there a man cannot acquire by observation, assisted by good rules and proper application ? And what possession not capable of improvement ? I answer, none with respect to nature. Our senses and all our faculties are gifts. To have a good ear for music is a gift ; yet those who have not that ear, have been known to be greater proficient in the science of music than one so favoured. You may say, speech is a gift of nature, and attribute elocution to the singular formation of the tongue ; but in my mind, by a person's propensity to become an orator, the memory becomes improved and supplied with a selection of the best chosen words ; the imagination is brightened and enlarged ; the tongue, by use, smooth and easy in its articulation ; and confidence, the result of experience,

ence, gives perfection to the whole. To elucidate this my opinion,—What had nature done for Demosthenes? Nothing! Demosthenes did all for himself; and, surmounting the impediment she threw in the way of his pursuit, became one of the greatest orators of his age. Thus I conclude, if a man can become a distinguished orator from the mere propensity to be such, where the imagination, memory, eyes, hands and tongue are concerned, it appears to me much easier to acquire the art of Ventriloquism, which is nothing but the imitation of sounds. Leaving this sentiment to your better judgment, in my next I shall inform you how you may, by practice and perseverance, be able to perform a number of other Deceptions made practicable by the Art of Legerdemain. However we may differ in opinion,

I am your friend,

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XXIII.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

AFTER properly considering the sentiments on Ventriloquism, contained in your

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Letter,

Letter, I perfectly acquiesce with you on the subject.

If you have any more Deceptions in your possession, and will send them, with your explanations on the same, you will confer additional favours on

Your friend and well-wisher,

A. B.

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## L E T T E R    XXIV.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I AM happy that you have become a proselyte to my opinion on Ventriloquism. I now proceed, agreeably to your wishes, in further explaining the Art of Legerdemain, by making you acquainted with the merits of the following Deceptions.

1st. *How to take a number of Eggs, from a Bag apparently empty.*—This bag, apparently empty, must be made according to the form of the one for breaking a watch, mentioned in letter seventeenth, with this addition only, observing that as one pocket only is necessary in the former experiment, you must increase the

the number of pockets according to the number of eggs you mean to take from the bag. The eggs being buttoned in the pockets, turning the bag inside out, convince the Company it is the same as empty. When you do this, keep towards you the aperture by which you have access to the pockets. Now when you intend taking an egg, turn this bag, which naturally brings this aperture the inside ; then, putting your hand within the said aperture, take an egg from a pocket, shewing it to the Company, and so proceed according to the number of eggs you intend shewing.

2d. *How to make the Ace of Hearts become the Ace of Clubs, and vice versa.*—Take two cards, on which are represented the Ace of Hearts, stripping the leaves of both about two-thirds of the cards, then painting on a thin piece of paste-board the Ace of Clubs and Ace of Hearts, paste down the two edges of the leaves to the cards, thereby forming a case for the two Aces so painted easily to slide. The original Aces being nicely taken from the leaves, you may by easily moving the slides on which these two Aces are depicted, cause either of them to appear ; consequently, you can easily make them take the place of each other.

3d. *How*



3d. *How to burn a Card to ashes, and restore it to its former state, the Company detaining a piece of the Card in order to prove its being the same proposed to be burnt.*—To accomplish this experiment, have a tin box made in such a manner as to open one half its depth, the top after opening appearing like the bottom ; underneath the inside of the top have a tin plate, the exact size of the box, appearing like no other but the inside of that which forms the cover ; within this, previous to exhibiting the feat, place a card with the one corner torn off, of the same sort with those you mean to present the Company, from which they are to choose one to be burnt : The choice of one being made, inform them they may tear off the corner, and keep it in their possession, until you shall be ready to restore the card going to be burnt ; then, placing it in the box, shut down the cover, and the tin plate with the substituted card there concealed will fall upon it, appearing like the bottom. Open the box, and burn this card ; the corner being torn off appears like the one drawn, which is now at the bottom of the box under the tin plate. Now, while stirring the ashes which were placed in the box, with your *metempsychostical stick*, dexterously and unseen, turn the  
box ;

box ; consequently the ashes are secreted under the tin plate, and the card drawn appears to view.

4th. *How to light a Candle with the point of a Sword.*—To perform this, dip the point of the Sword into Phosphorus, and by rubbing it, it will not be seen to possess fire, until you touch it to the candle, the wick of which must be previously prepared with Spirits of Wine.

5th. *How to transfer Money from one Handkerchief to another.*—In performing this, provide yourself with an Handkerchief, in one corner of which must be sewn whatever you mean to transfer. Request the favour of some one of the Company to lend you an Handkerchief : Now shew them two pieces of money of the same denomination with that concealed, putting one piece into one Handkerchief and the other piece into the other placing the Handkerchiefs at a distance, pretending to fold one of these pieces of money in your own Handkerchief, conceal it in your hand or sleeve, wrapping up the Handkerchief, with that corner in the middle in which the piece of money is sewn, telling them to convince themselves by feeling that the money is there. Now, presenting

presenting the other piece of money, fold that up, with the other piece you have in your hand, and the feat is done. All you have to do is, taking up the Handkerchief in which the piece of money is sewn, shaking it, it will not fall out ; whilst the other Handkerchief contains the two pieces.

Concluding these will be sufficient for your present practice, in my next I will give you further information ; till then I subscribe myself, as formerly,

Your friend,  
W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XXV.

[In Continuation.]

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

SUPPOSING you to continue in the same mind as when you first wished to become a Conjurer, I will send you a few more Deceptions.

6th. *How to fire a Lady's Ring from a Gun in such a manner, that the same shall be found confined under lock and key, one of the Company taking the key.*—To perform this feat, agency

cy is necessary ; but not diabolical. In some part of your Exhibition Room have a table, in which table you must have a drawer placed contiguous to a partition, through which partition there must be an opening to another apartment sufficient for the drawer to slide through : In this apartment your Agent must take his station. Within the drawer dispose a box, in which the ring is to be found. The gun from which the ring is to be fired must be made similar to the one for performing Deception 2, (which you will find in Letter XV.) with the tube charged as there mentioned. A Lady having lent you a ring for that purpose, drop it into the barrel of the gun, making sure that it passes the tube, opening the breech, which gives it access to the stock : Take it from thence as soon as possible. When you have the ring in your possession, give some of the Company the gun to put in a wadding, telling them to be sure to ram it tight ; and while thus diverting their attention, slide the ring into the drawer, and your Agent's business is to put the same into the box, locking it. Then, under pretence of going to the draw for something you have forgot, take the box therefrom, and place it on a table. Finally, shew the Company the box, telling



telling them your intention ; then give them the key, ordering the gun to be fired ; after which any of the Company may unlock the box, and the design is answered by finding the ring.—Or, by having your box made similar to the one in Deception 3, Letter XXIV. you may conceal the ring and shew an empty box, and by turning it as is done to re-establish the card, unlocking the same you may produce the ring.

No more at present, from

Your humble servant,

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XXVI.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your two last, containing a number of Deceptions, with their demonstrations, and it occurs to my mind that a building of a size convenient for containing a variety of Mechanical and Philosophical Curiosities, erected in some eligible situation, would be found profitable : I mean that the collection shall be greater than has ever been yet exhibited in the United States. For instance :

In



In addition to what you have already exhibited, such as your Writing Figure, Invisible Lady, Magician, Tumbling Figure, Miraculous Barrel, Whispering Figure, and Penetrating Spy-Glass, you may introduce the Little Conjuror, Fisherman, Flute Player, Cupid's Feats, Vanishing Figure, and many other curiosities you have the faculty of making, and which if thus collected, would in my opinion render it a Museum of respectable resort. In such an undertaking I would wish to be your associate.

From your earnest inquirer and friend,  
A. B.

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## L E T T E R   XXVII.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

RELATIVE to the place mentioned, I conclude it would be found profitable. The only objection I have to it is the sum of money necessary to complete a building in a style sufficiently elegant and convenient to command success. What if we spend the last dollar, before the place is completed? How and of whom shall we be certain to borrow? Where  
are

are the resources to enable us to carry the plan into desired effect? Will not our pretended friends, who promise and hover around us in the season of prosperity, turn their backs and forsake us in the hour of necessity? If we tell them we have drained our purses, will they not inform our creditors? If we importune them to lend, will they not catechise us, with a stupid harangue of what we ought to have done; or, more likely, condemn the whole undertaking, in order to form an excuse for their non-assistance? They may, with a countenance of seeming concern, declare they are heartily sorry; and that is all the comfort that may be expected from professed friends of the present age. While speaking of this, it occurs to my mind, the reason why the man of ingenuity is poor. I have heard it stated, as almost an infallible rule, that to be ingenious is to be poor; and this is thus accounted for: One abruptly but modestly affirms, "He is too lazy." Another's opinion is, "He is too unsteady, and by that means forfeits the fortune he might acquire by a steady adherence to one pursuit." A third says, "He is too extravagant." All these opinions are easily confuted. The truly ingenious man cannot be lazy, for ingenuity is the result of industry:

industry : Yet I admit the ingenious man may not be found so ambitious at some kind of labour as he whose mind is confined to one object ; yet his intellectual faculties are always employed. If walking, he is ruminating : If standing, he is thinking : If sitting, he is musing : If lying down, he is meditating. And should long-desired sleep imperceptibly steal upon his pillow, even then his slumbers are interrupted by intruding dreams relative to the object of his pursuit. Is this a species of inanimation similar to that attached to the lazy man ? Or, is he the sole heir to instability ? No : We see others, whom we are sensible have no ingenuity, as changeable and as wavering as he ; and as many more extravagant, without their generosity. Yet all these find a certain way to accumulate.

It is not merit wins the golden pile ;  
But partial fortune's inconsistent smile.

Poverty and ingenuity are too often born twins. Fortune seldom assists the person favoured by nature. A fool may have the faculty of accumulating : A wise man may want it. Let us then suppose an ingenious man poor : He has just finished a very valuable machine, and has exhausted his finances : Of whom shall he borrow ? None are willing to

to lend : He has not the bold effrontery to obtain it by falsehood, nor is he possessed of the language of persuasion. Now what is to be done? Creditors are clamorous : He has a family to support. In fact, he must sacrifice all future advantages to the present necessity. Thus, finding no alternative, he is obliged to part with the fruits of his ingenuity for half its value. The purchaser becomes rich ; the inventor remains poor. And then those persons who refused their assistance, seeing the advantage the acquisition is to the purchaser, will be feeling enough to compliment the Inventor with the appellation of simpleton, for parting with his machine. This simile may be applied to us : If we succeed, we shall be accounted industrious, cunning, speculative, enterprising men ; but if we fail for the want of cash or credit, or any misfortune, no matter what, then we are stupid, void of calculation ; the scheme was mad ; and, to conclude, we shall be indiscriminately branded with the sarcastic appellation of fools.

These at present are my sentiments on the subject of ingenuity. In my next I shall proceed with the further demonstration of more Deceptions.

With due sentiments of esteem,

Yours, &c. W. F. P.



## L E T T E R   XXVIII.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

AGREEABLY to the promise in my last, I now proceed to explain two more Deceptions, with which I shall close the subject of Legerdemain.

7th. *How to make an Handkerchief belonging to one of the Company follow the Exhibitor out of the room.*—Having borrowed an handkerchief, observe to the Company the intention of the feat. Take the hairs of an horse's tail, tying several of them end to end, until you have a sufficient length ; then fasten one end of this string to the fold of your coat, the other end fasten to a bunch of paper in your pocket ; then dexterously convey this paper under the borrowed handkerchief, folding the same ; by your walking out, the handkerchief will follow ; the string, by reason of its fineness, will not be seen by the Company.

★ 8th. *How to convey a Card into an Egg.*—Prepare yourself with three eggs, and before you exhibit deposit a card in each, of the same kind you mean should be drawn ; this is done



by contracting the card to such a compass as to be entered through a small opening in one end of the egg, which must be closed so as that the egg shall have the appearance of being perfectly sound. Take care that the cards you present the Company are like those in the eggs. You may have three different kinds of cards to present, being sure they select from the parcel corresponding to your purpose. This done, inform the Company that either of the three eggs shall contain their card. To excite admiration, you may tell the person to burn it ; then taking the ashes, and strewing the same over the egg, request him to break the egg, and to his astonishment the card will appear.

With my best wishes for your welfare,

I am yours, &c. W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R XXIX.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I NOW proceed to explain to you the effects produced by Optical Delusions. Of these I have two Deceptions : Both are styled Penetrating Telescopes, and are rendered curiosities

ties in the following manner : One by virtue of the magnet ; the other by that of reflectors.—1st. The Magnetic Spy-Glass is in its effects very astonishing, and in its construction very simple. To accommodate yourself with one of these Telescopes, procure a tube similar to that of a common Spy-Glass ; within this tube, and near to the end presented to the object, fix a magnetic needle, causing it to traverse perfectly easy on a brass swivel. (See Plate, Fig. 2.) Then the substance you present to the Company for concealment, in order to your discovery, must be possessed of magnetic qualities. Being possessed of these qualities, wherever the matter is concealed you are sure of discovering the same. The Gentleman fixed upon for this purpose, you must seemingly view with your glass, whilst all your attention is fixed on the needle concealed within the tube, the motion of which will determine where the object of your research is situated. In order to secure the success of your experiment, previously borrow of the before-mentioned gentleman, his knife, keys, or any attractive substance that you suppose he may probably have in his possession, feigning some pretence.—2d. The Penetrating Spy-Glass claims more merit in its principles,

principles; and has an effect equally as striking as the Magnetic. The curiosity depends on the form of the frame. (See Plate, Fig. 3.) The tubes on the top of the frame contain each of them two glasses : These glasses may be made of common window-glass, the exterior ones clear, the interior ones obscured on the inside. The frame must be excavated, and mirrors placed in each of the angles. Within the middle of both tubes is placed a mirror likewise ; these must be so placed as that the mirror of the tube presented to the object shall reflect the image of the same to the mirror placed in one of the angles of the frame below ; this reflects it in a direct line to another, placed in the-opposite angle ; this mirror reflects it upwards to another contained in the tube, where the eye of the observer is placed : Consequently, by thus contriving to bend the rays of light around the frame, it makes no difference to the observer whatever may be placed between the two interior glasses ; and the astonishment arises from the supposition that the frame is solid, as an idea is conveyed that the effect is produced by the singular construction of the glasses within the tubes.

While writing this, I thought I would give you an idea of a modern invention called the  
Physiognotrace,

Physiognotrace, famed for its correctness in taking profiles. The author of this invention was a Mr. *Hawkins*, but it has been greatly improved. I shall describe it in its present improved state. To accomplish this, you must provide yourself with a Pentagraph; this must be screwed to a partition, at the scale angle commonly made fast, and on which it usually traverses; the tracing point downwards, and opposite to a hole cut in the partition eighteen inches square: This hole must be glazed with plate glass, which must be covered with a piece of silk paper, strained tight; on that side place the person whose profile you are about to trace. Have a square trunk about five feet long, one end fourteen inches in width, the other six; place the wide end opposite the paper, your trunk being in an horizontal direction, only leaving convenient room between the trunk and the paper for a person to be seated. The use of this trunk is to confine and reflect the rays of light to the paper, which light must proceed from a lamp placed at the small end. This done, direct the person to be seated; and, lighting the lamp, retire within side of the partition, and there you will see a very strong and correct likeness, through the glass, of the person,

G. 2.

whose



whose shadow appears on the paper. Now, you must observe to have your paper well pillowed and secured, under the sketching point, by means of a small frame, which must be contrived either to slide or open with hinges. This altogether sliding in its place, as occasion may require, with the tracing point of the Pentagraph follow the outlines of your shadow, and the pencil at the sketching angle will perform the same revolution, reducing the profile to any size you please to fix your scale. I should have told you it was necessary to have a small iron rod made with a ring at the end, screwed under the hole in the partition, for the person who sits to steady his head against. You may cover this with green baize, or, any thing agreeable to the person so seated. Remember that the room must be perfectly dark, excepting the light proceeding from the lamp.

I have to observe, that many trials will be necessary before you take a complete profile. Much depends on placing the person in a proper attitude, or perhaps you will suffer the tracing point to err from the line of the face.

Cutting it out is a material point, and great nicety is required ; to execute which with  
precision,



precision, have a square piece of block-tin, on which place your profile ; provide yourself with a sharp-pointed tool, made similar to a lancet : In all these particulars you must be extremely accurate, as the beauty of the whole depends on the full consent of the parts. Imitating the hair with light touches of Indian ink, well executed, has a great effect. This improvement I believe originated with Mr. Doyle, who I am well persuaded takes them in a superior style.

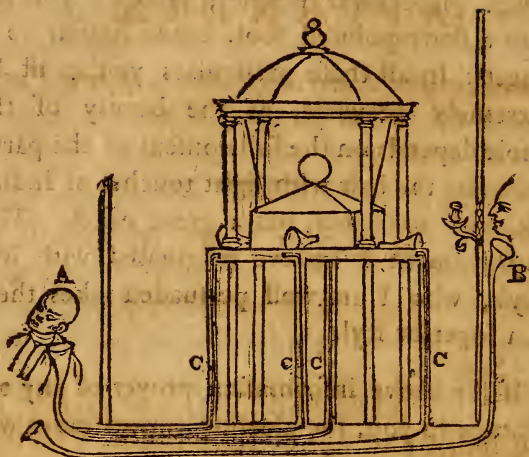
If the above information proves of any advantage to you, the pleasing circumstance will sufficiently reward

Your sincere friend,

W. F. P.

# Acoustic Temple.

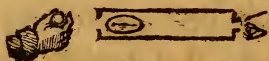
Fig. 1.



A is the person stationed to hear and solve questions.  
 B observes what is presented, and communicates in a whisper to A.  
 CCCC. The tubes by which the sounds are secretly conveyed to the trumpets.

## Magnetic Penetrating Spy-Glass.

Fig. 2.



## Optical Penetrating Spy-Glass.



Fig. 3.

AAAA. The reflectors in the frame of the glass.  
 B. The board or other substance placed to obstruct the sight.

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## A P P E N D I X :

*Containing five Letters explanatory of some Parts  
of the foregoing Work.*

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### L E T T E R I.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

MEDITATING one evening on the subjects of our correspondence, I became fully convinced that to derive advantages therefrom to ourselves, concealment would be indispensably important. Notwithstanding, as it will undeceive the ignorant, and gratify the inquisitive, I should advise you to publish the same to the world, knowing that it will be acceptable to all classes of people ; and although satisfied myself, that in teaching the Pig, patience and perseverance are the two essential requisites ; that Acoustics and Optics, as proceeding from the Invisible Lady, are the effects of human agency ; that the performance of the Deceptions principally depends on the adroitness of the Performer ; that Ventriloquism is not strictly a gift of nature, nor the wonder

wonder it produces depending on diabolical agency ; that the construction of your Penetrating Glasses is plainly represented ; yet at the same time, should it meet with your approbation to undertake the publication, I think it would increase the sale of the book, if you would explain more fully, how the Pig understands your meaning after the omission of his signal ; and make some further remarks on the Temple, and on some of the demonstrations, explanatory of the Deceptions. The observations on the construction of the other machines, as well as the demonstration of a principal part of the Deceptions, are fully and familiarly explained.

Please soon to convey by Letter how far my ideas correspond with yours, respecting the publication of your correspondence.

From your long absent friend,  
A. B.

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## LETTER II.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED your friendly letter, and after maturely deliberating on its contents, I must inform



inform you that I am totally averſe to becoming an Author. This Authorſhip places a man in a critical ſituation ; for the writer of any work, let it be of ever ſo great import, or little conſequence, the moment he ventures to inſtruct or amuſe his fellow-creatures, places his reputation in the hands of a cruel and unfeeling world. I candidly confeſs I feel no ambition to riſque my pains and labours, fame and fortune, on the event of a mere bubble, liable to be diſperſed by every blaſt of wind. Should there be any merit in the work, this will certainly be overlooked, and all faults, (which the beſt of performances naturally poſſeſs,) pointed out and exaggerated. Nor will the unravelled myſteries of which you ſpeak, gratify him who may have ſtrangely imbibed an idea that by purchaſing this book he is to be made acquainted with moral impoſſibilities. Others will as inconfiderately ſuppoſe, they have nothing more than barely to peruſe the contents, and without farther application, or giving themſelves time to practice according to the rules there ſuggeſted, will inconfiſtently expect to become *Ranies*. Such unreaſonable perſons, (and there are ſuch) would be of material injury to the ſale of any publication, much more, one of this nature : And theſe are not the only obſtacles I have to encounter :



encounter : I have another to surmount still greater than these ; and that is, those persons in the practice of Legerdemain, and others exhibiting the curiosities, whose principles my book is obliged to unfold, will, no doubt, together with their friends, exert their strongest efforts in endeavouring to persuade mankind that the demonstrations mine contains are incorrect ; and some, for the want of actual practice, or proper calculation, be led to believe it ; and thus one person brought to this belief might persuade many others. Consequently, I should have my books lay upon my hands, as a reward for my great expense and labour, and that perhaps at the cost of my reputation. This is much to be feared ; for as a plagiarist has the faculty of new clothing the sentiments of other men, and thus pass them on the world for his own, so are all these Deceptions liable to be effected by a train of different appearances, notwithstanding the principle in itself remains still the same : As for instance, the experiment of the ball being fired from a gun, and caught on the point of a dagger. The Performer, in order to confute that demonstration, and destroy the credit of the book, might occasionally perform it in the following manner : Not having a gun with

with any extra preparations, excepting his ram-rod, which may be prepared as follows,— a hollow at the ramming end, sufficient to conceal a ball, within which hollow he may have a sharp-pointed instrument, and pretending to ram down the ball, by this means take it out again ; all which would be easily effected, by reason of the spectators expecting to see it done in the manner I have explained in the book, which demonstration is the only safe one, and the one practised. In this attempt he might also have a common dagger, and risque its striking a ball already concealed under the candlestick. Now, notwithstanding this is a very uncertain way, the performer, might possibly succeed, and the book be condemned. So it is with the Invisible Lady : I feel convinced there is one now exhibiting, where but one agent is employed ; but this principle is not perfect ; the agent is obliged to be so close in order to make the sight practicable, that supposing the answers should be returned from even a brick closet, the person afraid of being overheard is obliged to smother the voice, by pressing his head in the concave ; consequently the same kind of smothered voice proceeds from the trumpet, and the auditors are obliged to repeat their question several times, before they can understand

the answer ; whereas the method I have explained enables the Agent to speak without fear, and as distinctly as he is capable. There is another thing to be observed : The bars mentioned, in which the holes are pricked in order to communicate the sound to the trumpet, may be covered with green baize or bound round with your handkerchief, as this will not prevent the sound issuing from the bar : The compressed air will force the sound between the threads of the baize or handkerchief. Now, this experiment being shewn a person who is unacquainted with the science of Acoustics, he might be led to think my demonstration false, and thus ruin the reputation of the book. Also, there might be no Girandoles, or Transparent Paintings, but something similar must be substituted through which the object presented to the globe is to be seen.

There is one way to prove my demonstration true :—Take the blade of a knife, and go round the eight posts, between the floor and the posts, and you will certainly find four of the posts are connected to the floor. If the Lady speaks from all four of the trumpets, and the posts are those that contain the tubes in order to convey the sound, when the Lady  
is

is requested to breathe or blow, instead of putting your hand in the trumpet, as will be the advice of the Proprietor, hold the inside of your hand to the inside of the bar, opposite the trumpet, at the distance of two inches, and you will feel the breath or wind issuing from the bar; or you may clap one hand around the centre of the same, putting the other hand in the trumpet, and the Lady's breath from that trumpet will not be felt. To obstruct the light, hold an handkerchief about a foot from the Incomprehensible Mirror, (so called) within this handkerchief hold the things to be defined, moving the same around the Mirror, every time shewing a different thing. The Lady must fail, though perhaps not on the first or second trials, because the handkerchief may not come opposite, so as to intercept the sight of the person secreted.

I will conclude this Letter with a few tragic sentiments on the *Death of a Mouse*, which I drew from reality; comprised in the following

#### L I N E S.

WHAT vast misfortunes men are born to bear !  
Here trouble calls a sigh, there drops a tear ;  
At every turn, affliction new appears,  
To goad our feelings, and awake our cares.

No common loss invokes the tragic muse,  
To share my grief, and mitigate my woes ;



No merchant's tales of ships o'erwhelm'd by seas  
Inspire's the Muse like loss of bread and cheese.

Happy the morn that gave my sorrows ease ;  
And blest the chance my vengeance did appease :  
Plague on all mice that have for food desire ;  
Thanks to the man who first invented wire.

A reguish mouse to whom I lay my grief,  
In trap secur'd, I thus address'd the thief :—  
Hard 'tis to live ! yet thy abandon'd mob  
Our cupboards plunder, and our pantries rob.

Thou little monster, cloth'd in jacket grizzle,  
Why did you steal my bread, and sugar nibble ;  
Drink up my milk, and trample on my butter ;  
Invade my cheese, and interrupt my supper ?

Now round the trap, the captive seems to fly,  
And now sagacious beams his brilliant eye ;  
To pant and beg is vain, you must not live,  
And Puss shall punish what I can't forgive.

The Cat, possessing not the tenderest heart,  
Soon made the little quaking captive smart :  
He's now releas'd, and now again confin'd,  
Now is he shook, and now his life's resign'd.

With frowning heart I view'd the little slain,  
And, quick relenting, thus I spoke in vain :—  
Poor little Grizzle, thou hast dearly paid  
For being *thyself*, and just what Nature made.

What has thy cravings altogether ta'en ?  
No matter what : Mankind are all, in grain,  
Churlish and cruel ! Abandon'd human kind ;  
For they are not what Nature first design'd.



But *Mouse* thou art ! where was my sense of feel-  
 No way hast thou t'obtain thy food but stealing ; [ing,  
 'This should have mov'd my heart to let thee go ;  
 This thought have sav'd thee from the purring foe.

Revenge revolts ! quick fetch primeval flame ;  
 Save me the deed, and hide me from the shame :  
 It will not be ; and I in future times  
 May find this added to my page of crimes.

Condemn my haste ! I would that thou could'st  
 All trespasses in future I'd forgive ; [live,  
 Free to my cupboard e'en to what might please,  
 To eat with me my bread, and share my cheese.

With sentiments of esteem and respect,  
 Your friend, &c. W. F. P.

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### L E T T E R III.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

I RECEIVED yours, and coincide with  
 your sentiments as they relate to becoming an  
 Author. Notwithstanding your surmises, I  
 advise you to venture : There is nothing to  
 be done without making a trial. Believe me,  
 I am so well convinced of the success of this  
 publication, that no argument will persuade  
 me to the contrary. Remember you are not  
 H 2 a stranger

a stranger to the people of America ; they are already convinced that you possess a variety of talents, and their good opinion is, as Richard says in the play, “a tower of strength.”

A work of this kind will, I am persuaded, be acceptable, and meet with a rapid sale. And I shall expect to hear in your next that the work is in the press.

I am with cordial sentiments,

Yours, &c.

A. B.



#### L E T T E R IV.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

BEING convinced that you would not knowingly injure me, and relying on your former professions of friendship, I place confidence in your sound judgment. In order to gratify you, and (as you say) satisfy the public curiosity, I submit our correspondence to their investigation ; taking into consideration that unravelling the seeming mysteries contained in the Letters may in some measure help to disperse the clouds of superstition, which is in my opinion of all evils the most dangerous to society, as it not only cramps but tramples on  
the

the faculties of men, who, upon an enlightened and liberal scale, might possess them to an advantage unknown and unlimited : Methinks whoever can admit the unaccountable absurdity, that effects have not an adequate cause, and that the ingenious productions of human wisdom are the consequence of diabolical agency, not only deceives himself but carries with him a veil of darkness, which he spreads over the eyes of his deluded followers ; and in that nation where superstition waves her bloody banners, Philosophy and the arts must hide their heads, or retire, whilst tyranny and oppression diffuse their baneful influence uninvestigated and unrestrained. Was there ever a person known to cherish this unnatural belief who became conspicuously ingenious, or singularly enterprizing ? On the contrary, being of this opinion, his ideas are contracted ; and whatever great end Nature might have designed for him, he is clouded and overwhelmed in this false and fatal belief. Was it superstition gave the world a Newton ? I answer, No : But rather philosophy inquiring into elementary bodies, the co-operation of substances, and the calculation of the effects naturally resulting from their adequate causes. Was it superstition discovered America ? No : Bold enterprize aided by similar calculations.—

Was

Was it superstition discovered the art of printing, the preserver of all arts? No: Superstition would have burnt the ingenious inventor, had he not, in order to save his life, discovered the secret.—Here then is the picture of superstition, tyranny and oppression, hand in hand. What if *Richard Faustus*, the ingenious inventor of this valuable art, had asserted his natural right, and dared to die, rather than thus be forced by the hand of ignorance to divulge the secret; then, from this inconsistent and arbitrary step, the art of printing might have been forfeited even to the present hour: But it has and will diffuse unbounded benefits to this and future ages.

To strengthen the argument further, suffer me to make the following comparison:—We will suppose that *Flavio de Gioia* was now living, and had lately discovered the wonderful properties of the magnet, and found that a needle touched with the same will invariably point to the North Pole: This discovery he advertizes for exhibition; it is singular, but thought of little or no consequence; yet by proper improvement, how much benefit has it produced. On the other hand, we will suppose *Flavio de Gioia* is summoned before a body of men similar to an inquisition; here he is examined,



examined, and all he can say in his behalf is, he has discovered its properties, but cannot account for the cause. Must this man, who discovered the inestimable uses of the magnet, the preserver of so many mariners' lives ; that provided the means by which the long-lost sailor, amidst the wide ocean, surrounded by sea and sky, might obtain the knowledge of his course ; and which has safely conducted the manufactories of one nation to another, and extended the benefits of navigation to all parts of the globe—Monstrous thought !—Must this man be condemned for a wizard ?

Once more.—Was it superstition conferred the glorious gift of Liberty ? No :—Resolute wisdom, with a sense of the natural privileges man has an undoubted right to enjoy.

Leaving any further comparison, we may rationally conclude that superstition's baneful effects are these,—retarding the human capacity, operating dangerously on society, and destructive to the common interest of mankind.

I remain yours, &c.

W. F. P.



## L E T T E R V.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

BEING about to publish the work, agreeably to your request, I shall close our correspondence with the following remarks, relating to the Pig of Knowledge. I observed, in a former Letter on this subject, that I was unable to discover the cause of his singular sagacity in comprehending my meaning without the signal. Notwithstanding, I will now further elucidate the subject.

You recollect that the cards are laid down in a circular direction, within which you stand, keeping the Pig by your side. Now we will suppose you wish him to fetch A : Step the opposite side of the circle, and the Pig, according to the nature of swine, being opposed to proceed in a direct course, will fetch you the letter ; you observing to step back, the moment he takes it in his mouth, and he will naturally follow. But should he chance to take a letter to the right, keep your station, and by inclining your body a little to the right, he will drop the card he has then got, and take the one you intend. Proceed in this manner,

manner, being careful that whatever direction you intend the Pig to take, your course and motion must be opposite.

*By what manner the Pig is thought to know the card drawn.*—Take a pack of cards ; place the clubs and hearts, and spades and diamonds according to their several suits : This done, begin with the eight of clubs ; on that place the king of hearts, on the king of hearts the tray of clubs, on the tray of clubs the ten of hearts, on the ten of hearts the deuce of clubs, on the deuce of clubs the seven of hearts, on the seven of hearts the nine of clubs, on the nine of clubs the five of hearts, on the five of hearts the queen of clubs, on the queen of clubs the four of hearts, on the four of hearts the ace of clubs, on the ace of clubs the six of hearts, on the six of hearts the jack of clubs. So much for the first assortment.—Then take the eight of hearts, and on that place the king of clubs ; and so proceed with the second assortment.—Then take the eight of spades, and on that place the king of diamonds ; and so proceed with the third assortment.—Then take the eight of diamonds, and on that place the king of hearts ; and thus proceed with the fourth assortment. This being done, put them together, and the cards are prepared.

Commit

Commit the manner in which the cards are placed, to memory, by learning the following words :—

*Eight Kings tried to save nine fine Ladies for one sick Jack.*

Which are thus explained :—

*eight is eight.*

*Kings are Kings.*

*tried is tray.*

*ten remember as coming between the  
to is deuce.* [tray and deuce.

*save is seven.*

*nine is nine.*

*fine is five.*

*Ladies are Queens.*

*for is four.*

*one is ace.*

*sick is six.*

*Jack is Jack or Knave.*

Now recollect that clubs and hearts, and hearts and clubs are together ; likewise that spades and diamonds, and diamonds and spades are together : In the same order, now present them thus packed to the Company to choose a card : When a choice is thus made, shift the cards above the one drawn, with a slight, to the bottom, and by looking at this, the  
cards

card drawn is easily discovered, by a strict adherence to the remarks before mentioned ; as, for instance, suppose the bottom card you look at to be the eight of clubs, then of consequence the card drawn must be the King of hearts ; and so for any other in the pack. Then proceed with the Pig in the same manner as when he fetches a letter.

I hope this explanation will meet your approbation.

Your sincere friend,

W. F. P.

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## L E T T E R VI.

*From A. B. to W. F. P.*

SIR,

IN consideration of the many advantages derived through the medium of your information, I tender you my sincere acknowledgments, as they have been both amusing and useful. I was much pleased with your poetic reflections on the *Death of a Mouse*. Presuming that is not the first nor only one your muse is capable of producing, any other will be gratefully received, and much oblige

Your's, &c.

## L E T T E R VII.

*From W. F. P. to A. B.*

SIR,

AS I have but little time to dedicate to the muses at present, and still wishing to comply with your request, I can only send you a few lines written on rescuing a Fly, which I did with my own hands, a few years since ; together with my thoughts on Philanthropy.

IN that gay season of the Spring,  
When Ceres smiles, and birds do sing,  
And plenty crowns our joy ;  
Of business tir'd, and bent on ease,  
The muse alone my mind could please,  
The vacant hour employ.

Miss laughing Pert or sister Tears\*  
In various images appears,  
Shap'd by their votaries' pens :  
But Nature view, from men to worms,  
Will furnish subjects in their turns,  
And speculative themes.

A giddy Fly, just wak'd to day,  
From Winter's sleep to Summer's play,  
Would light on this and that :  
He equal seem'd to taste the Spring,  
Joy mark'd his flight, and bent his wing  
To where I pensive sat.

Busy

\* *The Comic and Tragic Muse.*



Busy around the room he flew,  
 Bask'd in the sun, and wanton grew;  
 Nor seem'd a foe to dread :  
 But ah ! thou heedless silly Fly,  
 Would instinct say that danger's nigh,  
 Beware of yonder web.

Quick as the thought embrac'd my mind,  
 The silly fool, (so fate design'd)  
 Had swept the subtle snare :  
 The sapient Spider seiz'd his prey ;  
 The Fly with struggling feeble lay,  
 To end his Summer there.

Elate, the monster mantles round,  
 In glist'ning cords the Fly is bound ;  
 And bound, alas, to die !  
 Avaunt ! thou wretch, my patience tir'd ;  
 'Twas pity mov'd, and vengeance fir'd,  
 To hear the harmless cry.

Swift as my hand could seize the web,  
 The Fly was freed, the Spider fled  
 To hole prepar'd hard by ;  
 The long-legg'd savage drove away,  
 The fly unhurt I gave to play :  
 Methinks 'twas charity.



## PHILANTHROPY.

DEAREST possessor of the human heart,  
 Chief ornament of man ! Nor gold, nor title,  
 Wit, valour, wisdom, nought can share thy triumph.  
 Greater

Greater than all, above all, earthly angel !  
Terrestrial in form ! in godlike deeds celestial !  
The widow and the orphan, the aged and the maim'd  
Within thy balmy arms, sweeten life's bitter cup !  
Behold the mind by disappointment worn,  
Lost to all hope, and yielding to despair !  
Anon, thy voice, as if an angel spoke,  
Dispels the gloom.——  
The bitter sign of woe falls from the cheek,  
Now drench'd in tears of gratitude !  
The breaking heart ceases to ache,  
And smiles with joy.  
The tir'd senses, worn by constant thought,  
Retire to rest.  
Happy result of human friendship.  
Methinks I see heaven's scrutinizing spirit,  
Mark the fair deed ; in haste ascending  
To the realms above ! Great news,  
Acceptable to heaven ! Oh glorious tidings !—  
The recording angel joyfully gives credit,  
And, turning to the page of human failings,  
Balances accounts.

Adieu !

W. F. P.

FINIS.









